

Kansas City Digital Inclusion Fund

GOOGLE FIBER | SPRINT FOUNDATION | ILLIG FAMILY FOUNDATION
POL SINELLI | JE DUNN | GLOBAL PRAIRIE | KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION



Why Kansas City?

Kansas City is uniquely positioned to undertake high-impact digital inclusion initiatives to close the regions digital divide. What attributes makes Kansas City ideal?

- Entrepreneurialism
- Fiber networks
- Vibrant community spirit

Challenges

A survey, conducted by Google Fiber in 2012, revealed the following issues connected to accessibility and use of the Internet.

- 25% of KC residents lack broadband access
- 17% of KC residents are total non-users of the Internet
 - 44% are 65 or older
 - 46% are African American
 - 42% make less than \$25,000/yr
 - 64% have a high school education or less
- 4% of KC residents have access to the Internet, but not broadband access

Opportunities

The Fund can help to...

- provide computer and Internet access;
- make it easy to get online;
- make the Internet relevant, exciting, and beneficial for new users;
 - increased use of the Internet will yield increased value to users
 - connecting individual users to their passions online
 - envisioning the Internet not as a luxury, but as a staple in modern society
- increase people's digital skills

Eligibility

Applicants MUST...

- be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit,
- perform work in Jackson, Clay, Platte, Johnson and/or Wyandotte County,
- and agree to external evaluations including, but not limited to interim and final reports.

External evaluations

- Work with a outside evaluator to...
- Develop plans to improve programs and increase sustainability through activities such as:
 - Mapping theory of change
 - Designing valid and reliable measurement tools
 - Creating databases to manage and analyze data

Focus

Projects or programs should target ***one or more*** of the following:

- People who do not use the Internet but are interested in learning how to get online and need help
- People who do not use the Internet and who lack a computer or perceive high costs to Internet access
- Areas with high unemployment, with emphasis on Internet related career skills and job hunting
- Senior citizens who do not use the Internet, with emphasis on access to health information
- School children in homes without Internet Access

Preferences

Successful applicants will...

- demonstrate familiarity with the data as it applies to their clients,
- understand the primary barriers report by people who do not use the Internet,
- and propose innovative solutions.

Preference will be given to...

- projects that are collaborative, comprehensive, and financially sustainable
- projects that demonstrate the knowledge and ability to work in the region's most underserved neighborhoods/fiberhoods

Grants

- One year grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000
- Successful programs or projects may have the opportunity to apply for an additional year of funding
- Success is measured by reporting and an evaluation of the collaboration between the organization and the Fund's external evaluator

Funding Examples

GOOD

Program costs including reasonable staff time associated with the implementation of the program or project

Training and support for volunteers who assist in the program or project implementation

Hardware, software, and Internet connectivity to be used to provide digital skills training for target populations (devices, mobile labs, etc.)

BAD

Costs associated with updating an organization's internal hardware, software, IT systems or support, or website content

Construction fees or monthly service charges for home Internet services for clients

Development of WiFi or other networks intended to provide wide-scale connectivity

Purchase of hardware for end users and/or for in-home use

Review Process

Review Panel

- Includes representatives of the Greater Kansas City community and individuals with expertise in digital inclusion
- Reviews all applications and forms consensus recommendations to submit to the Community Foundation

Community Foundation

- Using the recommendations submitted by the review panel the Community Foundation conducts additional due diligence as necessary and makes final funding determinations

2013, 2014, and 2015

2013:

- 50 applications requesting \$2.8m; 5 grants awarded
- Computer lab, mobile lab, digital literacy and education, healthcare access, building relevance and interest, employment, workforce training and career exploration

2014:

- 25 applications requesting \$2.5m; 6 grants awarded
- Computer lab, mobile lab, literacy education, digital literacy and education, healthcare access, building relevance and interest, employment, workforce training and career exploration, online financial literacy, etc.

2015:

- 26 applications requesting \$1.2m; 7 grants awarded
- Computer lab, literacy education, digital literacy and education, healthcare access, building relevance and interest, employment, workforce training and career exploration, online financial literacy, etc.

Important Dates

Application available: August 1

Deadline: September 29

Review period:

- Review Panel – October
- Community Foundation - November

Notification and awards: November

Program delivery/implementation: January

How To Apply

APPLY ONLINE @

www.growyourgiving.org

- Resources
 - Grant Opportunities
 - Competitive Grant Opportunities
 - Kansas City Digital Inclusion Fund

APPLICATION TIPS

Answer all questions as directly and concisely as possible

Attachments

- Budget
- Letters of support

Questions?
